

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-15 were pending. Claims 1, 2, 7 and 13 have been amended, claims 3 and 14 have been canceled and new claims 16-18 have been added. Therefore, upon entry of this amendment, which is respectfully requested, claims 1-2, 4-13 and 15-18 will be pending.

The specification has been amended to correct for minor typographical and grammatical errors. No new matter has been added by such amendments.

Dependent claims 3, 5, 9, 12 and 14 were objected to, but are otherwise indicated to be allowable as reading over the art of record. Accordingly, to expedite prosecution and issuance of a Patent, independent claim 1 has been rewritten to include the limitations of claim 3 and claim 3 has been canceled. Similarly, independent claim 7 has been rewritten to include the limitations of claim 14 and claim 14 has been canceled. Further claims 5, 9 and 12 have been rewritten in independent form as new claims 16-18, respectfully.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-8, 10, 11, 13 and 15 were rejected under 35 USC § 102 as being anticipated by Tomita (US Patent No. 6,233,648). Although applicants respectfully disagree with this rejection, in view of the amendments made to independent claims 1 and 7 to expedite prosecution and issuance of a patent by including the limitations from claims 3 and 14, respectively, it is asserted that this rejection has been rendered moot.

Claims 2 and 13 have been amended to recite "the mapping table" as opposed to "a mapping table" since "a mapping table" has been introduced into independent claims 1 and 7, from which these claims depend.

Applicants reserve the right to file a continuation application to further prosecute the subject matter recited in independent claims 1 and 7 prior to amendment herein, as well as other claims.

Appl. No. 10/046,070
Amdt. dated June 17, 2004
Reply to Office Action of December 19, 2003

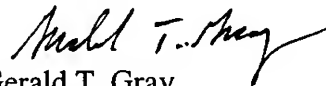
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 925-472-5000.

Respectfully submitted,


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